

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129165

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FOLLOWING REPEATS SEOUL 3864 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3864

EXDIS

TOKYO PASS SECRETARY RICHARDSON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, KS, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S MEETINGS WITH PRES. PARK AND  
OTHER KEY ROKG LEADERS.

SUMMARY: SECRETARY RICHARDSON HAD LENGTHY MEETING ON MAY 24  
WITH PRESIDENT PARK WHICH FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL  
ISSUES. HE ALSO PAID BRIEF COURTESY CALLS ON SPEAKER CHUNG  
IL-KWON, PRIME MINISTER CHOI KYU-HA, AND FINANCE MINISTER  
KIM YONG-HWAN. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 24 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK WAS ATTENDED BY  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER CHANG YIE-JOON, PRESIDENTIAL  
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 129165

SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM, PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL SECRETARY

AND INTERPRETER CHOI KWANG-SOO, AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER.

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, PRESIDENT PARK DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS ROK'S OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING FULL ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SELF-SUPPORT DURING COURSE OF FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN STARTING 1977. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BOTH FOR PAST US SUPPORT AND RECOVERY OF AMERICAN ECONOMY, WHICH HAS HELPED KOREA'S OWN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING FORTHCOMING YEARS WOULD BE GIVEN EMPHASIS EQUAL TO DEFENSE BUILDUP DESPITE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN ACHIEVING BOTH OBJECTIVES. PARK SOUGHT CONTINUED US HELP FOR ECONOMY AND PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGEMENT OF AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR TO ASSIST IN UPGRADING CAPABILITY OF DEFENSE INDUSTRY.

3. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT US SHARES WITH KOREA COMMON OBJECTIVE OF FURTHERING BOTH ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE BUILDUP, WHICH WILL BE OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO US AND WILL HELP PRESERVE EQUILIBRIUM IN PACIFIC. CREDIBILITY OF US SECURITY ROLE IN ASIA DEPENDS ON CONTINUED US-KOREAN COOPERATION. SECRETARY SAID THAT US DESIRES TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST KOREA AND COMMERCE MEETING WILL BE DISCUSSING MEANS OF DOING SO. HE INTENDS TO RAISE ON RETURN KOREAN CONCERNS REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF EXIM BANK CREDIT.

4. PRESIDENT PARK AND SECRETARY AGREED THAT THERE ARE NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN AREA OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BETWEEN US AND ROK AND SMALLER PROBLEMS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION. SECRETARY STRESSED PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMITMENT TO TRADE EXPANSION IN RECOGNITION THAT, FOR US TO BE EFFECTIVE TRADING PARTNER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ROK HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPORT TO US. HE CITED RECENT DECISIONS OF PRESIDENT NOT TO INVOKE TRADE QUOTAS ON NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR, STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE, AND MUSHROOMS. PARK THOUGHT US-KOREAN TRADE, ALTHOUGH FLUCTUATING AND INCREASING, WILL ESSENTIALLY REMAIN IN BALANCE. HE RECOGNIZED NECESSITY TO PROTECT FREE TRADE AND AVOID CONFLICT IN THAT AREA.

5. SECRETARY RICHARDSON TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HE SAID THERE IS COMMON DESIRE IN BOTH COUNTRIES  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 129165

FOR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, BUT THERE IS ONE AREA OF CONCERN IN US, NAMELY HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT FORD'S ADMINISTRATION FULLY APPRECIATED PROBLEMS OF MAINTAINING KOREAN SECURITY AND HOPES HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WILL NOT BECOME CAUSE OF STRAIN AND IMPAIR ABILITY OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO CARRY OUT ACTIONS IN MUTUAL INTEREST. HOWEVER, CONGRESS PLAYS INDEPENDENT ROLE ON AID AND TRADE AND IS INFLUENCED BY PUBLIC OPINION.

6. PRESIDENT PARK THEN LAUNCHED INTO LENGTHY DEFENSE OF HIS INTERNAL POLITICS. WHILE APPRECIATING VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SECRETARY, HE CONTENDED THAT THERE IS NO REPRESSION OR VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. CRITICS IN US ARE MISINFORMED AND HE NOW BELIVES THEIR ADVICE IS NOT FRIENDLY BUT RATHER AN INTENTIONAL EFOROT TO IMPAIR KOREAN GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION AND RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS ARE VIOLATING KOREAN LAW AND WILL BE TREATED WITH DUE PROCESS OF LAW IN THE COURTS.

7. WHILE BOTH US AND ROK ARE DEMOCRACIES WITH COMMON OBJECTIVES INCLUDING PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, ROKG HAS DIFFERENT LAWS BASED UPON ITS SPECIAL SITUATION. PARK NOTED THAT OTHER MORE ADVANCED DEMOCRACIES HAVE TAKEN EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES WHEN SURVIVAL AT STAKE. KOREA NOW FACES MOST SEVERE THREAT, WITH EVEN BLUE HOUSE WITHIN RANGE OF NORTH KOREAN ARTILLERY, TUNNELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND NORTH KOREA BEING MOST BELLICOSE OF COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS WHOSE BEHAVIOR IS UNPREDICTABLE. EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES ARE THEREFORE REQUIRED, BUT ONLY IN THREE AREAS. FIRST, PARK IS CONVINCED IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DEFEND ROK AGAINST NK IF SHARP DIVISIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION AMONG PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED. SECOND, ROKG CANNOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO ADVOCATE OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT OR ORGANIZE AGAINST GOVERNMENT. THIRD, ROKG CANNOT COUNTENANCE ACTS BENEFICIAL TO NORTH KOREA.

8. PARK CONTENDED THAT KOREAN PEOPLE AGREE ON THE NEED FOR UNITY AND AVOIDANCE OF DIVISION AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, JUST AS AIRCRAFT PASSENGERS WHO FEAR HIGHJACKING WILLINGLY ACCEPT BODY SEARCH OF PASSENGERS AND LUGGAGE INSPECTION. HE BELIEVES THIRD PARTIES, CITING NOT ONLY US CRITICS BUT JAPANESE AS WELL, DO NOT UNDERSTAND SERIOUS THREAT FELT BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 129165

KOREAN PEOPLE.

9. IN CONCLUSION, PARK STRESSED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SECRETARY'S VIEWS AS ADVICE OF FRIEND. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR UNDERSTANDING OF KOREA ON PART US ADMINISTRATION AND WILL TRY TO MAKE CRITICS UNDERSTAND SITUATION IN KOREA.

10. SECRETARY RICHARDSON, AFTER EXPRESSIN APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT'S EXPLANATION, POINTED OUT THAT HE SPOKE FROM PERSPECTIVE OF CONCERN FOR THE LONG TERM VITALITY OF US-ROK RELATIONSHIP. WHILE APPRECIATING SERIOUSNESS OF THREAT AND PROBLEMS FACED BY ROKG IN MAINTAINING, IN FACE OF THREAT, A MEASURE OF FREEDOM, THREAT LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR LONG TERM AND THERE IS NEED TO PRESERVE BALANCE BETWEEN REQUIREMENT FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND CONCERNS OF THIRD PARTIES, INCLUDING

US. EVEN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF KOREAN LAWS, WHICH DIFFER FROM US, THERE IS OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT LAWS IN MANNER ALLAYING US CONCERNS, SUCH AS BAIL FOR DEFENDANTS ON TRIAL.

11. PRESIDENT PARK QUICKLY RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR AND INEQUITABLE TO GIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT TO SOME VIOLATORS OF EM 9 BECAUSE THEY ARE FORMER POLITICIANS, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THIS WOULD RECEIVE UNFAVORABLE TREATMENT IN THE FOREIGN PRESS. IF THE DEFENDANT IS ILL, GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED AND DEFENDANT CAN QUALIFY FOR BAIL. DECISION ON BAIL IS UP TO THE COURTS BUT NO ONE HAS QUALIFIED. SPECIAL TREATMENT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN ACCORDED DEFENDANTS OF ADVANCED AGE, AND WOMEN, WHO ARE NOT BEING HELD IN CUSTODY. PARK CRITICIZED, ALTHOUGH NOT BY NAME, MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS WHO HAVE CONTACTED FOREIGN PRESS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS IN EFFORT TO PRESSURE ROKG. HE STATED THIS PROBLEM IS "SOLELY INTERNAL DOMESTIC MATTER," AND PRESSURE WILL NOT WORK.

12. SECRETARY RICHARDSON RECOGNIZED PROBLEM ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL MATTER FOR KOREAN JUDGMENT, BUT URGED ROKG RECOGNIZE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS ELEMENT IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH US WISHES TO STRENGTHEN. US HOPES IT WOULD NOT BECOME CAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE REAFFIRMED STEADFASTNESS OF US COMMITMENT TO KOREA WHICH IS BROADLY ACCEPTED IN US AND REASSURED PARK THAT US PUBLIC IN WAKE OF VIETNAM UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF US DEFENSE ROLE THROUGHOUT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 129165

THE WORLD. PARK EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING OF US AND ADVICE GIVEN AS FRIEND, URGING AT THE SAME TIME UNDERSTANDING OF KOREA'S PARTICULAR PROBLEMS.

13. DURING SECRETARY'S COURTESY CALLS VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED. SPEAKER CHUNG RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT NORTH KOREAN THREAT AND FEARS THAT WITH DEATH OF MAO, PRC AND USSR WOULD RESUME CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. HE URGED CONTINUED STATIONING OF US FORCES IN KOREA. DURING CALL ON PRIME MINISTER, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TOUCHED UPON WITH VERY PERFUNCTORY DEFENSE BY PRIME MINISTER. FINANCE MINISTER KIM REVIEWED BRIEFLY ROKG EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFLATION AND IMPROVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION. SECRETARY RAISED WITH FINANCE MINISTER PROBLEMS OF ACCESS FOR AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANIES TO KOREA. KIM RESPONDED THAT HE FELT NEGOTIATIONS WITH AIU WERE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. SNEIDER UNQUOTE SISCO

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